

Imagination: Everyone's Superpower!

A Library of Congress Virtual Workshop.

Teacher Note

- These two activities are an important part of the program.
- The pre-program (slides 3-10) will prepare students for discussions during the virtual program.
- The post-program (slides 12-15) will help students as they plan and draw their own comic strips.
- Teacher notes (slides 2 and 11) provide tips for how approach each activity with your group.

Materials list

- *Pre-program:* none
- *Virtual Workshop:* paper and pencils for a drawing activity and (optional) note taking.
- *Post-program activity:* paper, pencils, coloring supplies.
- *All:* A lively imagination!

Pre-Program Activity: Teacher Note

The pre-program activity prepares students for the workshop by having them define and consider *Imagination* and *Creativity*. The phrases opposite will help you guide their conversations.

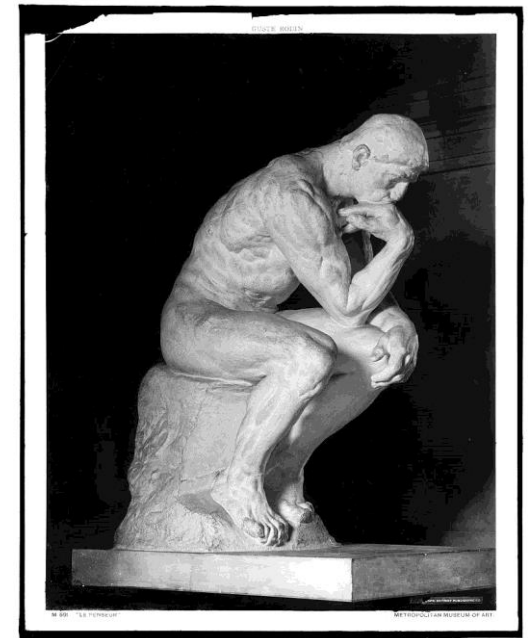
A prompt to think about comics and comic book characters (slide 9) readies students for our virtual discussion and for creating their own cartoons after the workshop.

- *Imagination* is thinking of things. We use our imaginations to form pictures in our mind, to make mental images of things that are not real.
- *Creativity* is doing. We use creativity to turn what we imagine into reality.

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A Library of Congress Virtual Workshop

We're excited to have you join us for a virtual workshop on *Imagination*! This activity will help you to get ready to chat with us during the program.



"The Thinker" statue, early 1900s.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs

Let's begin with some big questions...



What is Imagination?

How would you explain
imagination to someone who
doesn't know what it is?
Talk about what you might say.

Imagination comes from a Latin
word “imaginari”, which means
to picture oneself. That might
help you to define it.



How do we use our imaginations?

We can think of anything with our imaginations – objects, people, places, things that don't even exist.

What sort of things do you use your imagination for? Think of some examples then share your ideas as a group.



Carol Highsmith Archive
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Why is imagination so important? What is it for?

Our imaginations open all kinds of doors – they take us to places no one has gone before.

Once you've imagined something new, exciting or different, you can make it real by using *Creativity*. Think of a way to describe this word.

Creativity is making, doing, or inventing.

We use creativity to turn what we imagine into reality.

Imagination + Creativity = Invention

Inventors use imagination and creativity to make life easier.

30 second group exercise:

Using the chat box (or a piece of paper), list as many inventions as you can think of.

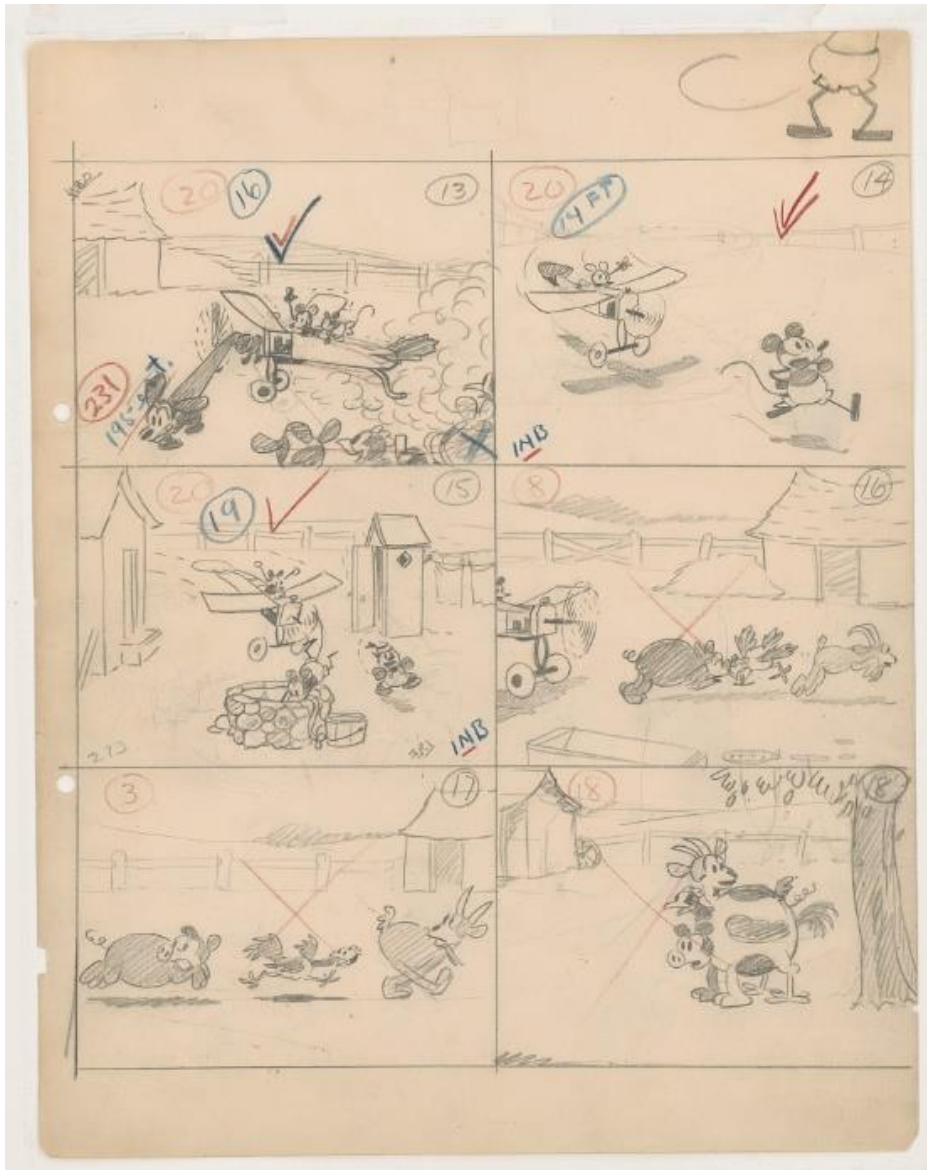
Share your ideas.

In the workshop we'll talk about inventors whose *Imagination + Creativity* changed the world.



Sewing by hand, and by machine

Imagination + Creativity = Entertainment



During the workshop we'll talk about a product of imagination that provides fun and entertainment – Comics!

You'll see examples from the amazing comic book collection at the Library of Congress, like this 1928 sketch for a Mickey Mouse comic.

To get ready for the workshop, think about:

- Your favorite comics, or characters in comic books and graphic novels.
- Why you like them or what you know about them.
- What kind of superhero or character you would imagine and create for your own comic strip.

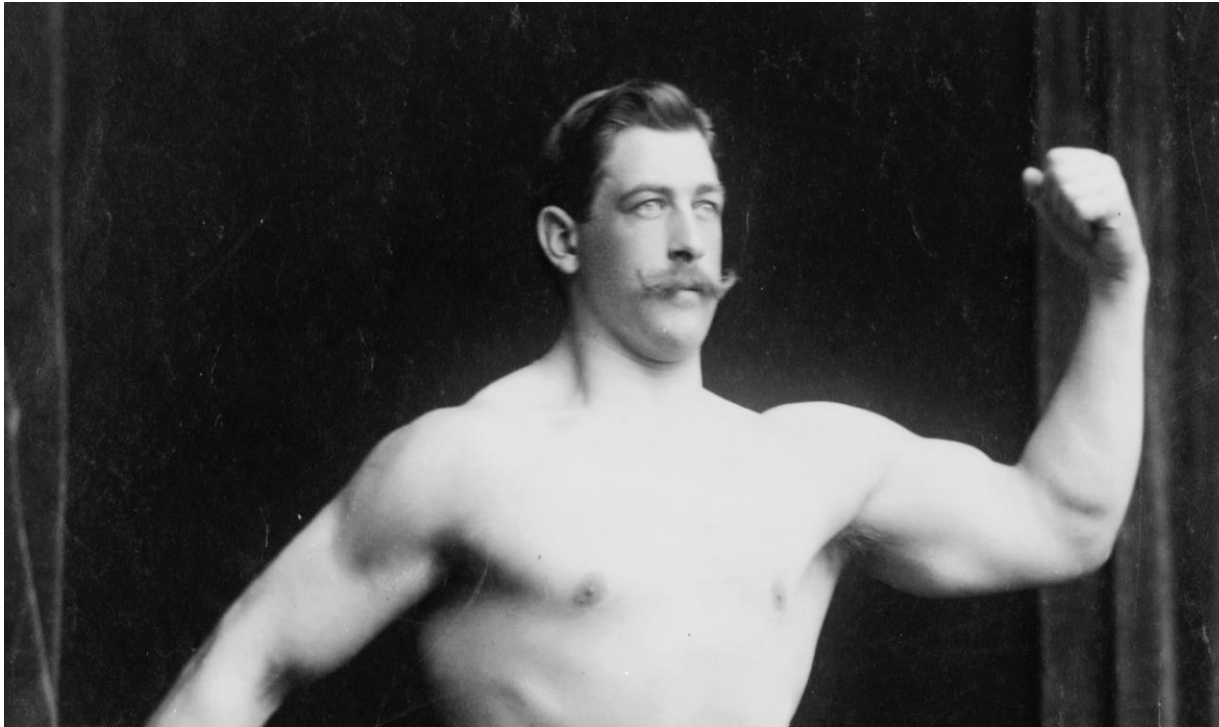


Boys sharing a comic book in New Mexico, 1940.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs.

Be ready to share your ideas when we meet. You'll develop your own comic after the virtual workshop, so let your imaginations run riot!

We look forward to seeing you and exploring
Imagination: Everyone's Superpower!

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Strongman flexing his muscles, 1901.

Post-Program Activity: Teacher Note

In this activity, students will draw on the discussions in the workshop to think up and create their own comic strips.

The next four slides will help them organize their ideas before they start drawing.

Students will need pencils, paper and any coloring materials they choose to use.

- Encourage children to embrace their own, unique drawing style. As we discussed, there is no right or wrong way to draw.
- Point out that simplicity can be very effective.
- Emphasize the importance of:
 - Character, story, setting and speech
 - A beginning, middle and end to their comics.

Be a Comic Creator!

Drawing Your Comic.

You'll need pencils and paper for this activity, but the most important tool is your **superpowerful imagination!**

Remember, we all have different styles, but everyone can draw.

Collect ideas and doodles on a piece of paper. Then use these notes to create your comic strip.

Think about what we talked about and saw in the virtual workshop. Don't forget to include **characters**, **story**, **setting** and **speech** in your comic.



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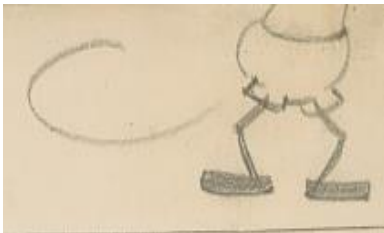
Next steps

Ready to warm up?

Quickly doodle 10 shapes on a piece of paper – circles, blobs or whatever you like.

Add details to create faces, arms or legs.

See how you can create all kinds of characters by adding just a few lines or shapes?



Time to make a plan.

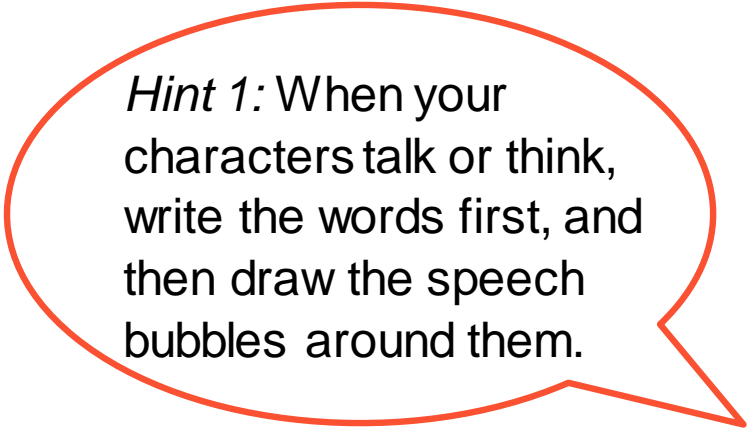
Who are your main characters? What will happen to them?

Think of ideas for the three parts of your story – the beginning, the middle and the end.

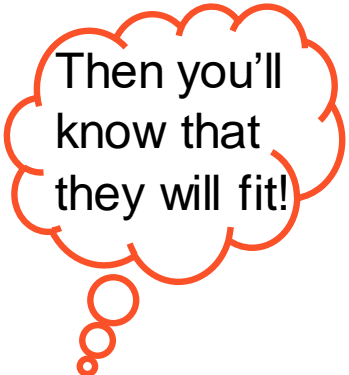
You can talk or think your ideas through or write notes on a piece of paper.

Putting your comic strip together

- You can use the outline on the next slide as a guide for your comic strip.
- Think of a title for your comic and add your name, as artist and creator.



Hint 1: When your characters talk or think, write the words first, and then draw the speech bubbles around them.



Then you'll know that they will fit!

Hint 2: Draw your whole strip in pencil first, to get your story organized. Then you can go back **and add color**.

The Adventures of _____

(Your character's name)

By _____

(Your name)

Time to start drawing!

You can draw a strip like this one, or create your own outline if you'd like more panels.



Show your finished creation to friends and family.



We'd love to see your comics too! Your teacher can send them to us at the Library if you'd like to share.

